

What is claimed is:

1. An information processing system comprising:
a main unit of information processor;
an input means detachable from said main unit of the information processor,
5 for setting a startup password used for starting said main unit of the information processor;

a startup password storage means for storing said startup password set by said input means;

a startup password presence checking means for determining whether or not said startup password is stored in said startup password storage means; and

a startup password request means for requesting an operator to set a startup password, wherein:

(i) said startup password request means requests setting a startup password by said input means for starting said main unit of the information processor, if said input means is connected to said main unit, and when a result of determination of said startup password presence checking means indicates absence of said startup password;

(ii) said main unit of the information processor is turned into a starting mode upon verification of a password, if said input means is connected to said main unit of the information processor, and when the result of determination of said startup password presence checking means indicates presence of said startup password; and

(iii) said main unit of the information processor is turned into a starting mode regardless of the result of determination of said startup password presence checking means as to whether presence or absence of said startup password, if said input means is not connected to said main unit of the information processor.

2. The information processing system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said main unit of the information processor comprises:

a startup condition storage means for storing a startup condition for starting

said main unit of the information processor regardless of a result of determination of said startup password presence checking means;

a startup condition judging means for making a judgement as to whether or not the startup condition stored in said startup condition storage means is satisfied; and

5 a main unit starting means for starting said main unit of the information processor when a result of determination of said startup condition judging means satisfies the startup condition.

10 3. The information processing system as set forth in any of claim 1 and claim 2, wherein:

said main unit of the information processor further comprises an input means connection detecting means for detecting whether or not an input means is connected to said main unit of the information processor; and

15 a startup condition for said main unit of the information processor is satisfied when a detected result of said input means connection detection means indicates no connection.

4. The information processing system comprising:

a secondary memory;

20 a password setting means for setting a secondary password for said secondary memory;

a secondary password storage means for storing said secondary password;

25 a secondary password presence checking means for determining whether or not said secondary password for said secondary memory is stored in said secondary password storage means; and

a secondary password request means for requesting setting with an input means of a secondary password for said secondary memory when a result of determination of said secondary password presence checking means indicates absence

of the secondary password.

5. The information processing system as set forth in claim 4, further comprising:

5 a security unlock condition storage means for storing a security unlock condition used for unlocking a secondary password protection for said secondary memory, irrespective of a result of determination of said secondary password presence checking means;

10 a security unlock condition judging means for making a judgement as to whether said security unlock condition stored in said security unlock condition storage means is satisfied; and

15 a secondary password security unlocking means for unlocking said secondary password protection for said secondary memory when a result of determination of said security unlock condition judging means satisfies said security unlock condition.

6. The information processing system as set forth in any of claim 4 and claim 5, further having an input means connection detecting means for detecting whether said input means is connected, wherein

20 a security unlock condition is satisfied when a result detected by said input means connection detecting means indicates no connection.

7. The information processing system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said secondary memory is removable from said main unit of the information processor.

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8. The information processing system as set forth in any of claim 1 and claim 2, wherein said startup password request means includes a display means.

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9. The information processing system as set forth in any of claim 4 and claim 5, wherein said secondary password request means includes a display means.

10. The information processing system as set forth in claim 8, wherein said display means further includes a supplementary input means provided with a touch panel.

11. The information processing system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said display means further includes a supplementary input means provided with a touch panel.

12. The information processing system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said startup password request means further includes a voice generation means for requesting setting of a startup password with vocal sound produced by said voice generation means.

13. The information processing system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said password request means further includes a voice generation means for requesting setting of a secondary password with vocal sound.

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14. The information processing system as set forth in claim 7, wherein, if said secondary memory provided with a secondary password set therein is connected to another information processor different from said information processor, and when said another information processor is connected with an input means, said another information processor starts only when an password identical to said secondary password set therein is input from said input means.

15. The information processing system as set forth in claim 7, wherein, if

said secondary memory provided with a secondary password set therein is connected to another information processor different from said information processor, and when said another information processor is not connected with an input means, said another information processor starts regardless of presence or absence of a secondary password.

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16. A method of processing information for an information processing system having a main unit of information processor and an input means detachable from said main unit of the information processor, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) setting a startup password by said input means for starting said main unit of the information processor;

(b) storing said set startup password;

(c) detecting presence or absence of said startup password in storage; and

(d) requesting an operator to set a startup password,

whereby:

(i) executing said step (d), if said input means is connected to said main unit of the information processor, and when a detected result in said step (c) indicates absence in storage;

(ii) turning said main unit of the information processor into a startup mode, if said input means is connected to said main unit of the information processor, and when said detected result in said step (c) indicates presence in storage; and

(iii) turning said main unit of the information processor into a startup mode irrespective of said detected result in said step (c), if said input means is not connected to said main unit of the information processor.

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17. The method of processing information as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

storing in said main unit of the information processor, a startup condition for starting said main unit of the information processor irrespective of said detected result

as to presence or absence of said startup password in storage;

determining whether or not said stored startup condition is satisfied; and

starting said main unit of the information processor when said startup condition is satisfied.

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18. The method of processing information as set forth in any of claim 16 and claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

detecting whether or not said input means is connected to said main unit of the information processor; and

starting said main unit of the information processor under a condition that said detected result indicates said input means not in connection thereto.

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19. A method of processing information for information processing system having a secondary memory built into a main unit of information processor and a secondary password storage means for storing a secondary password for said secondary memory, said method comprising the steps of:

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determining presence or absence of said secondary password in storage; and

requesting setting of a secondary password when said secondary password is absent.

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20. A method of processing information for information processing system having a secondary memory removable from a main unit of information processor and a secondary password storage means for storing a secondary password for said secondary memory, said method comprising the steps of:

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determining presence or absence of said secondary password in storage; and

requesting setting of a secondary password when said secondary password is absent.

21. The method of processing information as set forth in any of claim 19 and claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

storing a security unlock condition for unlocking protection of said secondary password for said secondary memory irrespective of presence or absence of
5 a secondary password;

determining whether said security unlock condition is satisfied; and

unlocking the protection of said secondary password if said security unlock condition is satisfied.

10 22. The method of processing information as set forth in claim 21, further comprising the step of detecting whether or not input means is connected, wherein

said security unlock condition is satisfied if said input means is not in connection.

15 23. The method of processing information as set forth in any of claim 16 and claim 17, further comprising the step of displaying a request for setting a startup password in a display screen.

20 24. The method of processing information as set forth in any of claim 19 and claim 20, further comprising the step of displaying a request for setting a secondary password in a display screen.

25 25. The method of processing information as set forth in claim 23, further comprising the step of inputting supplementary information by means of a display screen touched by an operator.

26. The method of processing information as set forth in claim 24, further comprising the step of inputting supplementary information by means of a display

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screen touched by an operator.

27. The method of processing information as set forth in any of claim 16 and claim 17, further comprising the step of requesting an operator to set a startup password
5 with vocal sound.

28. The method of processing information as set forth in any of claim 19 and claim 20, further comprising the step of requesting an operator to set a secondary password with vocal sound.

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